

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NASSAU 01722 072125Z

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TAGS: EAID, BF

SUBJECT: BLRD

FOR AID (AA/TA) DR LONG

REF: A. NASSAU 1712; B. STATE 217934

SUMMARY: POLICY LEVEL MEETING OF BLRD PROJECT CONCLUDED OCTOBER 4 AFTER EXTENSIVE REVIEW OF WHERE PROJECT HAS BEEN, UNDERSTANDINGS OF GOVERNMENTS WITH RESPECT TO ITS CONCEPT AND FUTURE, AND A VARIETY OF SPECIFIC ISSUES AFFECTING PROJECT OPERATIONS. MEETING CHARACTERIZED BY EXHAUSTIVE CONSIDERATION OF ALL OF THE ISSUES WHICH HAVE ARISEN AND FROM US POINT OF VIEW, OUTCOME WAS FAVORABLE. IT EMERGED CLEARLY THAT DETAILED PROJECT PLAN ON BASIS OF WHICH GCOB CAN MAKE DECISIONS REGARDING SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS IS KEY TO MAINTAINING MOMENTUM WE HAVE ACHIEVED AND MUTUALITY OF EFFORT ON WHICH PROJECT DESIGN BASED. END SUMMARY.

1. POLICY PLANNING COMMITTEE BLRD MET OCT 3 AND 4 WITH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ROBERTS AND I ALTERNATELY CHAIRING SESSIONS. FUNDAMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT WAS A REAFFIRMATION OF OUR JOINT SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
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PAGE 02 NASSAU 01722 072125Z

OF THE PROJECT AS ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED, I.E. THAT IT IS

TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH -- AGRONOMIC, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL -- CONSISTENT WITH WHICH, A LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION SYSTEM IS TO BE ESTABLISHED AS PART OF THE PILOT PROJECT TO DEMONSTRATE THE APPLICABILITY OF THE INFORMATION OBTAINED. WHILE CONCENTRATING ON RESEARCH, THE PROJECT WILL MOVE FORWARD IN SUCH A FASHION AS TO LEAVE THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT WITH THE BASIS FOR A VIABLE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION SYSTEM.

2. PURSUANT TO THIS, GROUP OF EXPERTS WAS DESIGNATED TO TRANSLATE THE CONCEPT INTO A DETAILED PLAN, AN ADVANCED DRAFT OF WHICH IS TO BE AVAILABLE TO GOVERNMENTS NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 8. I BELIEVE THIS SCHEDULE SHOULD BE MET AND THAT PLAN ITSELF WILL PROVIDE BASIS FOR ASSISTING GCOB IN MAKING ITS DECISIONS ON SPECIFIC RESOURCES, BOTH MANPOWER AND FINANCIAL, WHICH IT WILL CONTRIBUTE.

3. SESSIONS ALSO ADDRESSED QUESTIONS OF OFF SITE USE OF EQUIPMENT, LOCAL FUNDING AGREEMENT, AND EXTENT OF BAHAMIAN FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO PROJECT, ON ALL OF WHICH SUFFICIENT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO MAKE THEM NOW SUSCEPTIBLE TO CONSIDERATION BY AID/W TEAM WHICH IS TO ARRIVE IN NASSAU APPROX OCTOBER 10. GCOB ALSO PREPARED TO DISCUSS METHODS OF SUPERVISING FUNDS GENERATED BY OFF SITE USE OF EQUIPMENT.

4. DR. ERVEN LONG, WHO MADE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO SUCCESS OF DISCUSSIONS, WAS PRESENT AT ALL SESSIONS AND

CAN PROVIDE MORE DETAIL ON WHAT WAS ACHIEVED ON THESE QUESTIONS. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE WE DO HAVE THE NECESSARY ELEMENTS FOR A DOCUMENT (E.G. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING) ON OFF SITE USE OF EQUIPMENT AND THE CRITERIA OF WHAT WILL GOVERN SUCH USE (SEE STATE 217934). IN WHAT WE HOPE IS A MAJOR STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION, BAHAMIAN REPRESENTATIVE ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF A LOCAL FUNDING AGREEMENT TO BE EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1 AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS TERMS AND BUDGETS AS OF MID OCTOBER AND PERHAPS AGREE TO TEXTS. SESSION ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHAT PROJECT OPERATIONAL COSTS MAY IN FACT BE APPROPRIATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NASSAU 01722 072125Z

FOR GCOB TO ASSUME, I.E. TELEPHONE INSTALLATION, AND I URGE THAT TEAM BE WELL VERSED IN THE INTENT OF PRO-AG ON THIS ITEM AS WELL AS INTERPRETATIONS OF THE LANGUAGE IN THE PRO-AG STANDARD PROVISIONS ANNEX. (COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT COMPOSITION AND MAGNITUDE OF LOCAL COSTS WHICH WE ARE NOW SUGGESTING GCOB SHOULD FINANCE IS BEYOND THAT WHICH THEY UNDERSTOOD THEY HAD ACCEPTED AT THE TIME OF THE SIGNING OF THE PRO-AG.

5. WE AND BAHAMIANS ARE PREPARING AN AGREED MINUTE WHICH WILL PRESENT IN GREATER DETAIL THE OBLIGATIONS EACH SIDE ASSUMED WITH RESPECT TO STEPS THAT WILL BE TAKEN TO RESOLVE ISSUES AND PROBLEMS. I HOPE TO TRANSMIT THAT TO DEPT BEFORE END OF WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 12.

6. AS INDICATION OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THIS SESSION WAS ABLE TO PIN DOWN QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN BOTHERING BOTH SIDES, GCOB ANNOUNCED THE DESIGNATION OF EARL DEVEAUX AS THE BAHAMIAN CO-PROJECT MANAGER. I THINK THIS NOMINATION TO WHICH WE GAVE OUR ASSENT, AND OUR CONCLUSION THAT WE HAVE CLEARED AWAY MANY OF THE ITEMS THAT NEEDED IN DEPTH DISCUSSIONS, AND SET IN MOTION THE MACHINERY TO RESOLVE THEM, HAVE SET THE STAGE FOR THE GCOB DECISIONS WE HAVE BEEN AWAITING.
RIDGWAY

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